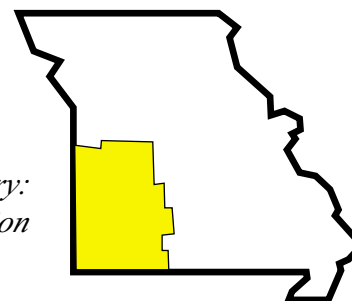


# Missouri Department of Health 1998 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



*Regional Data Summary:  
Southwest Region*

**A**lthough 85% of Missourians perceive themselves to be in good to excellent health, Missouri ranks above US rates for the leading causes of death—heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lung disease (emphysema). Research shows that most of these diseases are related to personal health behaviors. Smoking, a diet high in fat and low in

fruits and vegetables, obesity and sedentary life-style are the major contributors to poor health—yet these behaviors can be changed to improve one's well being.

In 1985, the Missouri Department of Health, in collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, began to gather information about these and other health

behaviors and practices among Missourians through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

This report contains the results of the 1998 survey for the state and six regions. The good news is that regional data are similar to that of Missouri as a whole. The bad news is that Missouri is often among the leading states for the

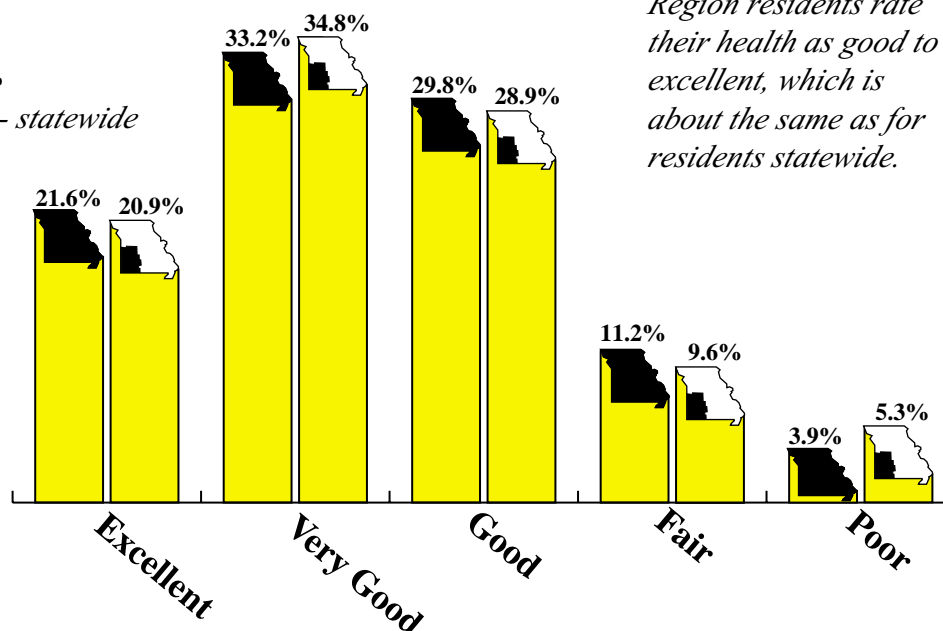
percentage of persons who smoke or are obese, among other unhealthy behaviors.

Therefore, although Missourians may “feel good,” their high rates of unhealthy life-style behaviors as well as premature deaths (before age 75) due to chronic diseases indicate that Missourians need to adopt healthier ways of living.

## Perception of “Own Health”

**Would you say  
that in general  
your health is . . .**

*Southwest Region -vs- statewide  
1998 BRFSS data*

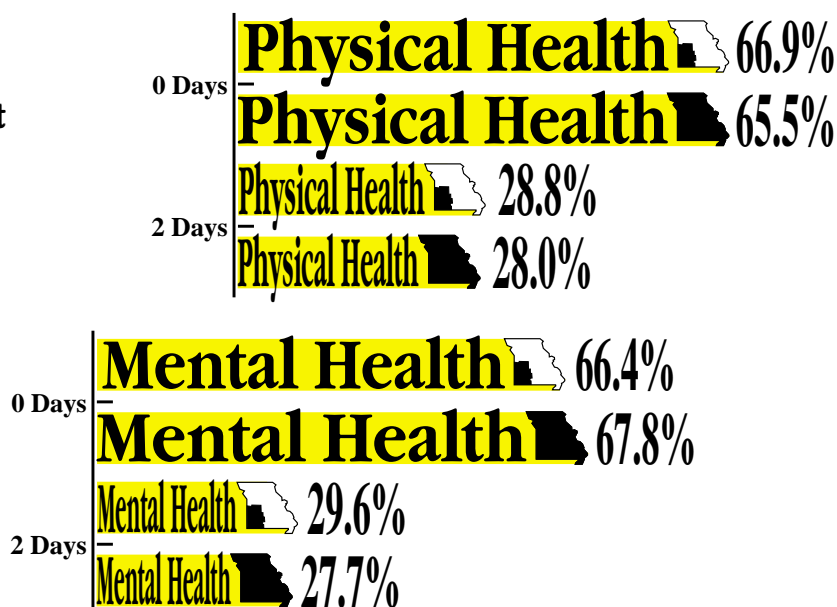


✓ *84.6% of Southwest Region residents rate their health as good to excellent, which is about the same as for residents statewide.*

- ✓ 64.3% of Missouri residents statewide and 43.6% of Southwest Region residents said that they were not limited in their usual activities in the past month.
- ✓ On the question of how many days was your physical or mental health not good, the results also were similar to those statewide.

### How many days in the last month was your health not good . . .

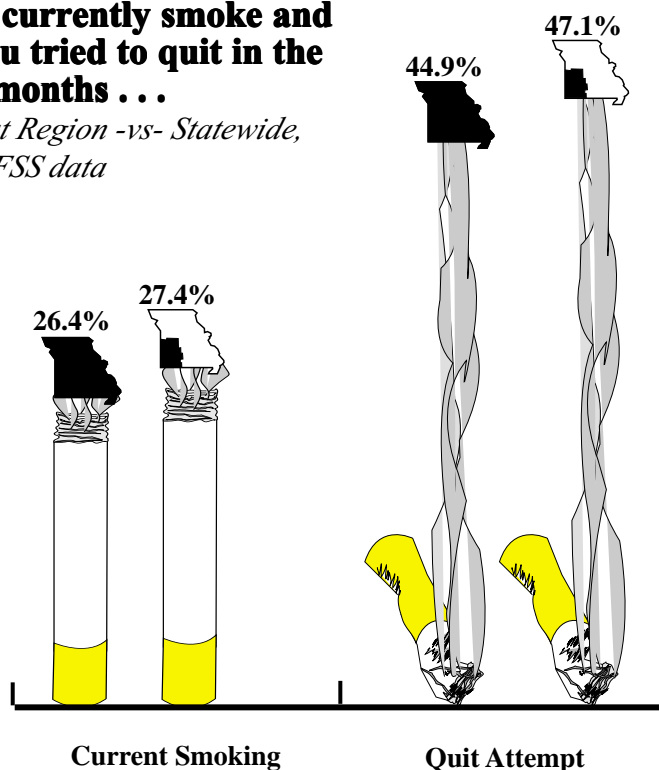
Southwest Region -vs- Statewide,  
1998 BRFSS data



## Tobacco Use

### Do you currently smoke and have you tried to quit in the last 12 months . . .

Southwest Region -vs- Statewide,  
1998 BRFSS data



- ✓ Southwest Region residents smoke at a rate that is greater than the average for residents statewide and they try to quit at a greater rate.

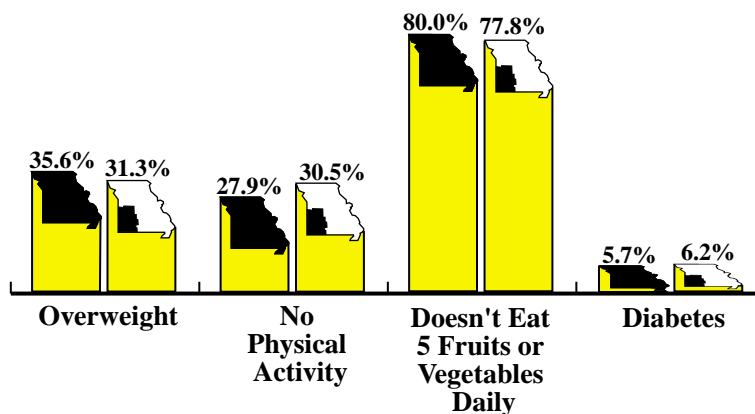
## Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction

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- ✓ 61.1% of Southwest Region residents are eating fewer high fat or high cholesterol foods to lower the risk of heart disease and stroke, while 46.3% say they exercise more.
- ✓ 30.6% of Southwest Region adults took aspirin daily or every other day.
- ✓ 7.4% report that they have had a heart attack and 3.0% have had a stroke.

### Overweight, Physical Activity, Diet, and Diabetes . . .

*Southwest Region -vs- Statewide,  
1998 BRFSS data*



- ✓ Among Southwest Region residents, 31.3% are overweight.
- ✓ Physical activity data reveal that 30.5% do not get any exercise at all, while only 32.3% exercise regularly.
- ✓ 34.8% eat green salad 3-6 times a week and 38.8% drink juice daily. However, 77.8% of Southwest Region residents do not eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily.
- ✓ 6.2% have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes.

## HIV/AIDS

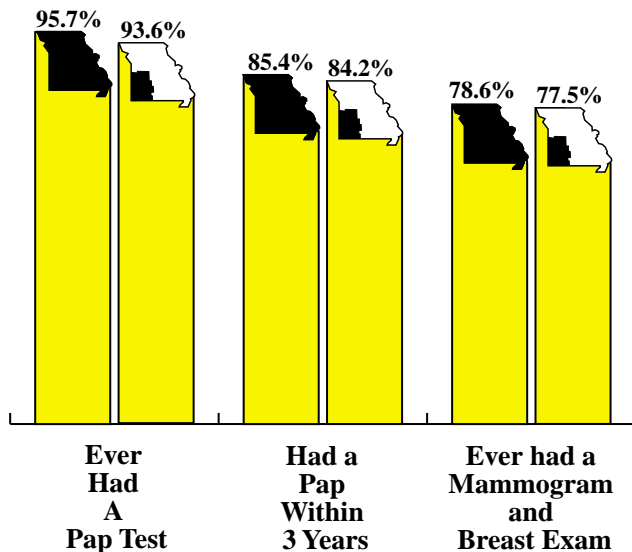
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- ✓ 37.0% of Southwest Region adults have been tested for HIV, while 6.6% consider themselves at medium to high risk of getting infected.
- ✓ 43.7% support HIV/AIDS education in 4th to 6th grades.
- ✓ 82.0% would advise a sexually active teenager to use a condom.

## Women's Health

### Pap, Mammogram, Breast Examination, how frequent? . . .

*Southwest Region -vs- Statewide, 1998 BRFSS data*



- ✓ *Southwest Region women are about as likely as all Missouri residents to have ever had a Pap test, but slightly less likely to have had one in the last three years.*
- ✓ *Southwest Region women are slightly less likely than all Missouri residents to have ever had a Mammogram and Clinical Breast Exam (CBE).*
- ✓ *Southwest Region women age 50 or greater were less likely to have had a Pap smear within the last three years (62.5% -vs- 68.4%) and less likely to have had Mammogram and CBE (61.3% -vs- 66.6%) within the last two years.*

## Health Care Access/Utilization

- ✓ *During the past year, 65.2% of Southwest Region residents visited the doctor for a routine check-up, compared to 68.8% statewide.*
- ✓ *16.2% of Southwest Region residents do not have some kind of health care coverage, compared to 13.0% statewide.*

### About the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Missouri Department of Health (MDOH) conducts ongoing surveillance with the assistance of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MDOH staff randomly call about 4,200 Missourians during the year and request participation in the BRFSS. Interviewers ask questions related to health behaviors, screening, quality of life, mental health, impairment and access to health care and insurance.

For more information about any of these health topics or about the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, contact the public health department in your county. Additional information is available from the Missouri Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at (573)522-2800.

### Counties of the Southwest Region:

Barry, Barton, Bates, Benton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Henry, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney, Vernon, Webster